Tori Hewitt

Ms. Krafft

AML 2410, Section 8974

September 17, 2013

Response Paper 2, “*I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently*”

*I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently* by Edna St. Vincent Millay portrays the struggles of lost love. The poem is an analyzed recollection of the relationship between the narrator and a significant other. *I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently* contains the underlying themes of repentance, acceptance, and what is appropriate timing for a relationship. Edna Vincent’s poem raises the query should one change for the person they love, should one accept the flaws of the person they love, and can one put a time limit on love?

With every failed relationship it is human nature to inquire what went wrong, *I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently* is the answer to what the narrator did wrong in their relationship and what their mistake cost them. The narrator of the poem exhibits a sense of regret and speaks as if this is their last plead to the love that has left. In the poem the narrator reviews the flaws that could have contributed to the demise of the relationship. The narrator conveys the fact that they should have meant the heartfelt words they often used as a joke. The narrator also reflects at times they should have put the differences in the relationship aside and be more affectionate. The narrator of the poem is not self loathing. They acknowledge their flaws and accept them. The poem acknowledges that the narrator never tries to hide their “little wicked ways” and is openly admitting of them.

Edna Vincent’s poem *I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently* alludes to the question should you accept the flaws of a love one. The general theme of acceptance is portrayed in the poem when the narrator reiterates that if the differences in the relationship were put aside then they could be together. *I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently* utilizes persuasive language and diction. This use of language is intended to make the reader have empathy for the narrator because the person they loved is now gone. After reading this poem I believe that the person the narrator loved decided not to accept their flaws because in the end they ultimately left. It is questionable if you love someone that their flaws can be ignored because the poem is evidence against that theory.

The final issue *I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently* explores is when the appropriate time for a relationship is. At the end of the poem the narrator pleads for their loved one to remember the spirit of a girl who would have fallen in love “in a day or two.” The conclusion of the poem made the reader make assumption that if this lost loved just waited a mere day then the love between them and the narrator could stay intact. The conclusion of the poem dawns the question can love have a finite time limit. The poem supports that love can only be patient for so long. It is apparent at the end of the poem that the only way for the narrator could see personal change needed to be made was for their love to leave.

In conclusion, *I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently* is a beneficial example of why self reflection during a relationship is not only important but vital to the survival of an intimate relationship. Regret, acceptance, and timing were major issues Edna Vincent’s poem dealt with. *I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently* clarifies the importance of putting aside the differences being experienced for the sake of true love.